

LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC DAMAGES

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the veil of obfuscation must be lowered in this House, if you are to ever hear the truth. I sat here last night in great pain and had to listen to lawyer after lawyer come down in this well and champion the virtues of the trial lawyers against the evil doctors of this Nation. They railed against us for wanting to limit noneconomic damages and from these evil malpracticing doctors of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am struck with how hypocritical that argument is when the other side voted against limiting contingency fees.

When as much as two-thirds of the noneconomic damage awards go to pay the legal fees of trial attorneys, would you not think they would want to limit these costs as well, if they really wanted to make the patient whole? Or maybe they are not interested in the pain and suffering of the victims of the evil doctors. Maybe they are more interested in the pain and suffering of the trial lawyers and the millions of dollars that they give to Democratic campaigns.

I am proud we took that step last night to limit noneconomic damages.

TRUE NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, the School Lunch Program was established for the purpose of national defense in 1946, when it was found that many of our soldiers had grown up without adequate nutrition. Well, today our national security is just as dependent on these nutrition programs. That kind of national security, well-fed children, is certainly of greater value than star wars. But believe it or not, the Republican contract calls for cuts in WIC, cuts in school lunches, but increases in star wars.

Well, they certainly kept that promise. Shame on them.

Here are the facts: In Oregon, more than 283,000 children benefit from school lunches in WIC. If we adopt these Republican cuts, Oregon children will have \$13 million less to be spent on them. Ask any American: What makes you feel more secure, adequately fed children or star wars? The Republican contract contracts the safety shield for American children. Let us keep feeding our kids, stop stuffing the Pentagon.

SPENDING DISCIPLINES, TAX RELIEF BENEFIT AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, families are the core of American society. Families are the principle mechanism through which values, knowledge, and discipline is passed from one generation to the next.

Why must working families suffer at the hands of the Government and its irresponsible spending habits? Families are required to pay more each year in taxes to support the failed welfare state and other failed programs.

To put an end to this tax and spend mentality, we have unveiled a tax relief plan that is pro-family and pro-economic growth. In fact, an additional \$20 will go into each family's pocket for every dollar that is given to the Government. More exactly, 76 percent of the tax reductions, will go directly to families. Also, we have included a tax relief provision for small businesses and for future investment.

These provisions incorporated with the contract will benefit families while getting the country back on track.

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, in our rush to meet an artificial, 100-day goal, it is a fair question to ask, are we hurting more than we are helping?

In yesterday's New York Times, an article noted that when the Personal Responsibility Act was marked up by the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunity, the language passed resulted in 57,000 children of military families being denied access to the school feeding programs that would be established.

To restore this feeding program for the military, it will cost the Pentagon more than \$5 million for meals and another \$5 million for administrative costs.

It seems, Mr. Speaker, that we profess to want a strong military, yet we pass legislation that will cause military children to go hungry.

These actions are either mean spirited or grossly negligent. Either way, America suffers.

Let us demonstrate that we are wise enough to know that welfare reform means real wage reform for poor people and not taking food out of the mouths of children. Let us demonstrate the strength of having reason and compassion.

FOR TOM

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, after dealing with special groups looking out for their own self-interest in the Nation's Capitol, we sometimes feel the creeping cynicism. It takes a strong example of people helping people to turn that cynicism into optimism for the future.

Tom Rogers has been a community leader and elected public servant in Santa Barbara County for more than a decade. Unfortunately Tom has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Now our community is pulling together to show our appreciation for a man who served our community with distinction by declaring this Tom Rogers Month. Friends and strangers alike are setting up community events to raise funds for the Rogers family. I would like to quote from a Santa Barbara News-Press editorial, "Former Santa Barbara Supervisor Tom Rogers has been dealt a tough hand, but he has faced the last few difficult years with confidence, good humor, and stunning graciousness." Mr. Speaker, while Tom Rogers Month ends March 17, Tom's effect on our community and his efforts to make it a better place to live, work, and raise a family will never end. God bless you, Tom.

FALL OF THE DOLLAR

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today we are seeing the true effects of President Clinton's \$20 billion bailout of Mexico. In spite of his use of \$20 billion, worked for, paid for, and belonging to the American taxpayer, the Mexican economy continues its downward slide toward collapse. The peso dropped to another historic low last night, and it is expected to go even lower.

The American taxpayers have been fooled again. This bailout was to be the magic formula for the Mexican economy, but it turned out to be poison for both them and for us.

The dollar, once a solid foundation of the global economy, fell again yesterday.

The eyes of the world have now looked on our economy as being destined to be linked with Mexico's. By doing so, we have committed an injustice to our own economy and to that of the American taxpayer. The American taxpayer has been victimized again, thanks to Mr. Clinton.

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PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 244), to further the goals of the Paperwork